

## Value

- Provide a new specialty evaluation and treatment program for the growing problem of blast injury consequences.
- Provide high quality healthcare for our nation's military personnel and veterans
- Utilize existing resources to provide healthcare at reduced costs to the nation's taxpayers
- Promote cooperation and collaboration between the DoD and VA



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## VA-DoD

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## VA-DoD Blast Injury Program



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*Giving Freedom  
Back to Those  
Who Fought for  
Our Freedom.*

**Tel: 866-80-BLAST**

## Let's Start from the Beginning...

**What is a Blast?** A blast is described as a violent explosion, as of dynamite or a bomb. "Blast" can also refer to the violent effect of a wave of increased atmospheric pressure followed by a wave of decreased pressure. Any of the following devices encountered in combat can be considered blasts: Improvised Explosive Device (IED), Rocket-Propelled Grenade (RPG), landmine, grenade, or mortar fire. Injuries can be caused by the blast wave itself, shrapnel, flying/falling debris, or by individuals being thrown by the blast wind.



Photo Courtesy of [www.navy.mil](http://www.navy.mil)

### Problems Commonly Seen After Blasts

The injuries most people associate with blasts are orthopedic (bone and joint) or open (bloody) wounds. However there are several other types of injuries associated with blasts...

- Hearing Loss
- Sleep Problems
- Burns
- Concussion
- Visual Problems
- Ringing in the Ears
- Abdominal Bleeding
- Breathing Difficulty
- Nightmares
- Blast Lung
- Fracture
- Brain Injury

### If you have had any of the previously listed problems after being exposed to a blast, the Blast Injury Program may be right for you!

The VA-DOD Blast Injury Program is coordinated by the Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PM&R) Service at the James A. Haley Veterans Hospital (JAHVAH) in Tampa, FL. The JAHVAH is a 327 bed tertiary care teaching hospital that serves the largest number of veterans in the nation. Individuals referred to the blast injury program will initially receive a comprehensive evaluation including self-reported medical history and current complaints, followed by a physi-



Photo Courtesy of [www.af.mil](http://www.af.mil)

cal exam by a physician specializing in rehabilitation medicine. Findings from these initial assessments will trigger appropriate referrals to other specialists in the areas of brain injury evaluation and treatment, amputation management and prosthetics, hearing impairment, visual impairment, and emotional adjustment/stress management.

The Blast Injury Team strives to identify the most common injuries attributed to blasts and to devise the most appropriate plans of care to return combat vets to their pre-deployment level of health. The team consists of multiple disciplines with access to the full range of medical and support services within the hospital.

- Physicians
- Audiologists
- Neuropsychologists
- Therapists
- Social Workers

If you are interested in this program, please contact us using the information listed on the front or back of this brochure.

## Thank you for fighting for our freedom!